

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on March 17, 2008. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action, claims 1-18, 21-26, 37-41, 51 and 53-55 were pending. Claims 19, 20, 27-36, 42-50 and 52 were withdrawn. By way of the present response applicant has: 1) amended claim 53; and 2) added no claims; and 3) canceled claims 18, 21-26, 37-41, 51, 54 and 55. As such, claims 1-17 and 53 are now pending.

Applicants have amended the specification to reflect the issuing of the patent from which this application claims priority and to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objected to Figure 1, stating that it should be designated as prior art. Applicants have enclosed herewith a replacement sheet for Figure 1 with the requested designation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 10-14, 16-18, 21-26, 37-41, 51 and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0117442 A1 by Thielen (hereinafter, "Thielen") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0058649 by Grady et al. (hereinafter, "Grady").

Applicants have canceled claims 18, 21-26, 37-41, 51, 54 and 55 without acquiescence to the Office Action's reasons for rejection, and respectfully submit that rejection of these claims is moot.

Thielen describes a digital content player having an embedded FM transmitter, an embedded wireless link for content loading from a content server, and a docking interface to attach the player to a docking station or multi-use power cord, wherein the docking interface provides a connection for power, audio, data, and control.

Grady describes an integrated FM transmitter and power supply/charging accessory for MP3 players. In particular, Grady shows an MP3 player with a scroll wheel for user input.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Thielen and Grady fails to disclose

a casing;
a receiver socket on said casing through which digital audio data is received;
a digital-to-analog audio converter housed within said casing;
a first transfer socket on said casing through which a song is transferred to a radio transmitter;
a second transfer socket on said casing through which meta-data for the song is transferred to the radio transmitter; and
a dial on said casing for selecting a song for playback.

(Claim 1) (emphasis added).

Claim 1 recites three separate and distinct sockets. In contrast, Thielen describes a docking connector interface which includes a power interface, analog audio interface, digital audio interface, universal serial bus interface, data interface,

and control interface combined. (Thielen, paragraph [0084]). In one embodiment, Thielen describes an additional dash mount connector comprising the combination of a power interface, analog audio interface, digital audio interface, data interface, and control interface combined. (Thielen, paragraphs [0085]-[0090]). Applicants respectfully submit that the dock connector interface of Thielen connects the content player to a base PC and that the dash connector interface of Thielen connects the content player to a radio receiver. (Thielen, paragraphs [0084] and [0091]). Thielen fails to disclose three distinct connectors, one through which digital audio data is received, one through which a song is transferred to a radio transmitter, and one through which meta-data for the song is transferred to the radio transmitter.

Grady also only describes two ports: a headphone port and a firewire port. (see Grady paragraph [0039] and Fig. 1). The firewire port is used to provide power to the player and the headphone port is used to transmit audio content. (Grady, paragraphs [0052]-[0053]). Therefore, Grady fails to disclose three distinct connectors, one through which digital audio data is received, one through which a song is transferred to a radio transmitter, and one through which meta-data for the song is transferred to the radio transmitter.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose all of the features of claim 1 and that the rejection has been overcome. Given that claims 2-6, 10-14, and 16-17 are dependent upon claim 1, and include additional features, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2-6, 10-14, and 16-17 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

Regarding claim 53, similar to above, Thielen and Grady fail to disclose:

a mini-jack through which an analog song is transferred to an FM radio transmitter, for broadcast at a specific FM frequency;

an audio connector socket through which digital audio data is received; and

a USB socket through which digital meta-data for the song is transferred to a radio data system (RDS), which is a sub-carrier of the specific FM frequency.

(Claim 53) (emphasis added).

The references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose three separate and distinct features: a mini-jack, an audio connector socket, and a USB socket.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 53 has been overcome.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thielen and Grady as applied to claim 6, and further in view of Matsuda et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,774,604 ("Matsuda").

Matsuda describes power supply and battery charging for a host device connected to a slave device, the devices having USB interfaces.

Given that claim 9 is dependent upon claim 1, and includes additional features, and that Matsuda fails to remedy the shortcomings of Thielen and Grady, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 9 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thielen and Grady as applied to claim 14, and further in view of Ohmura et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,158,842 ("Ohmura").

Ohmura describes an automobile sound system that includes a radio transmitter/receiver (Ohmura col. 7, line 63 – col. 8, line 2; element 35 of FIG. 1; module 110 of FIG. 2) that receives music from passengers' portable audio players (Ohmura elements 200a and 200b of FIG. 1).

Given that claim 15 is dependent upon claim 1, and includes additional features, and that Ohmura fails to remedy the shortcomings of Thielen and Grady, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 15 has been overcome for at least the same reasons as above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

Applicants reserve all rights under the doctrine of equivalents.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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